Introduction of British Telecom System in MTNL

2395. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a system in the MTNL network which is the prototype of the British Telecom network; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the cost thereof and by when it is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A Pilot project with the help of Telecom Engineering Centre has been proposed to improve the reliability of cable data and record keeping since with over 2 million telephones in MTNL Delhi and Bombay, manual methods are becoming increasingly difficult to rely upon. One system under examination checks on correctness of external plant records and tests the cable pairs for faults. Such systems are also in use in U.K. However, no final decision has been taken on the system.

Allotment of PCOs to Social Service Institutions

2396. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for allotting PCOs to the institutions engaged in social service;

(b) what is the number of PCOs sanctioned during the last three years to such institutions in Lucknow and Kanpur; and

(c) how many applications are pending at present and the reasons for delay in their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As per revised STD/ISD, PCO Policy effective from 24.07.93. Charitable institutions are included in the preferential category for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs. Local PCOs are allotted liberally subject to technical feasibility.

(b) One PCO has been allotted at Lucknow, there is none at Kanpur.

(c) Six applications are pending for consideration by the STD/ISD PCO allotment Committee at Lucknow. No applications are pending at Kanpur.

Commemorative Stamp on Kumbha Mela

2397. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposals under Government's consideration for issuing commemorative and special postal stamps;

(b) whether Government would consider to issue special stamps depicting the Kumbha Mela of Allahabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A list of the proposals of issue of special and commemorative postage stamps to be placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee is at statement (*see* below). Proposals recommended by the Committee are then considered by the Government for issue of commemorative and special postage stamps.

(b) There is no proposal currently under consideration for issue of special postage stamp on the Kumbha Mela of Allahabad.